

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, this is what the House government health care bill creates: \$1 trillion, 1,000 pages, \$1 billion per page. Here is the patient, and over here is the doctor.

Now, moderate Republicans have a much better plan we will put forward. Our Medical Rights Act says Congress cannot restrict the decisions of you and your doctor and eliminates the need for all of this, and puts you right next to your physician, without the need for \$1 trillion in spending.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 648

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed from House Resolution 648.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), amended by Public Law 108-375, and the order of the House of January 6, 2009, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy:

Mr. POLIS, Colorado

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ, California

Mr. LAMBORN, Colorado

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY— TOO MUCH GOVERNMENT INTRU- SION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, under the United States Constitution, article I, section 2, it states that every 10 years there will be a counting of the people. The purposes are twofold: One, to levy direct taxes, and second, to find out how many people live in the United States so that Members of Congress can be apportioned percentage-wise based on population. That is the purpose of the census, and it's a good purpose. Next year we will have another undertaking of the census, of the counting of the people in the United States.

But also, independent of the census, there is a survey that is being taken, given, rather, to American citizens, 3 million next year and 3 million every year. Now, I want to make it clear that

this is not the census, but this is a system of surveying the American people, and it just so happens that today I got one of these surveys. It's labeled from the United States Department of Commerce, the Census Bureau, and it's the American Community Survey, and it says, Your response is required by law.

You open this document, you get a lot of paperwork. You get several documents that say you have to fill this out or by penalty of law if you don't, but you get the survey. Mr. Speaker, the American Community Survey is 28 pages. If a person receives one of these and doesn't fill it out, you've violated Federal law.

Now, the survey contains a lot of information that makes me wonder, Why does the Federal Government even want this information? Why should the Federal Government even have this information?

And here's some of the questions that it asks: the value of your residence, how much you pay monthly for your residence on your mortgage, how many rooms in your house, how many toilets are in your house, what kind of vehicles do you drive. I guess they want to know how many pickups are in Texas.

Do you have a stove? a refrigerator? What type of fuel do you use? How much does it cost you each month to use that fuel? How much does each person in the household or in the residence, rather, make? What is their income? Where do they work? What do they do? How long have they done that? What is the cost of the mortgage? What is the cost of health insurance for each person, and what is the cost of taxes in the house? And it goes on and on and on, 28 pages, required by Federal law under the American Community Survey Act.

I won't go into all the questions because I don't have time, but I'd like to mention one more. One question is, each person has to answer this question, because of a physical, mental or emotional condition, does the person have trouble concentrating, remembering, or making decisions?

Now, should the Federal Government have that information? And why should a person in the residence make that determination about themselves and then have to answer that question for everybody else in the residence?

I certainly hope they're all getting along well.

It also asks, because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, does the person have difficulty dressing, doing errands, difficulty shopping? And it goes on and on and on, Mr. Speaker.

Back in 2007, two historians found some old documents from the Department of Commerce archives and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library. These documents confirmed for the first time that the Census Bureau turned over information to incarcerate over 100,000 individual Japanese Americans after the Pearl Harbor attack. This information was reported by USA Today. The Census Bu-

reau information made it all possible. Of course, the Census Bureau has denied that it gave that information. But be it as it may, it was legal in 1940.

In 1942, documents proved the Census Bureau turned over these addresses of the Japanese Americans to the War Department. In 1943, they turned over their financial information to the Department of the Treasury.

□ 1800

This was all nice and legal in the War Powers Act of 1940. It was legal, but it wasn't ethical, and we know what happened to 100,000 Japanese Americans. They were interned. The point is this, Mr. Speaker. This should be voluntary. If United States citizens want to give all of this information to the Federal Government so the Federal Government can have a file on everybody, then they should be allowed to do that, I guess, but it shouldn't be required by law. That is why I've introduced legislation to allow citizens not to fill this document out if they don't want to, because it invades, in my opinion, their personal privacy rights.

Once again, I'm not talking about the census. I am talking about the survey that is being required by law to be sent out. People down in southeast Texas, people who live in Cut and Shoot, Texas, for example, shouldn't be required to fill this information out. It violates their privacy. It's too much government. It may be well-intended, but the Federal Government should not have this information, and we as Members of Congress should allow this information to be, not required, but voluntarily given by the people of the United States.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

H.R. 3183: ENERGY AND WATER DE- VELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KLEIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2010.

I applaud the subcommittee chairman and the ranking member for moving this important bill through the Appropriations Committee and to the House floor.

This bill funds some of the most critical programs in south Florida, where I live, and my constituents are very much in tune with this particular bill.

I would like to spend a few moments today focusing on how this bill affects our area of south Florida.

Since coming to Congress, I have been committed, along with my Democrat and Republican colleagues, to working to make sure with the Florida delegation and with Members throughout the country that they support Federal Government obligations to restore the incomparable River of Grass, which is known as the Everglades.

I was very pleased that President Obama, in his budget request, met his promise and followed up on that to make Everglades restoration a priority. Although the \$210 million in this bill doesn't quite match the President's request, the fact remains that this bill makes Everglades restoration its biggest construction project.

I commend the chairman and ranking member for keeping Everglades restoration as a national priority. It is historical.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3183's commitment to Florida's priorities are also something to be mentioned. The beaches of south Florida are some of the most beautiful in the Nation, but our coasts are facing a real crisis. They have become seriously eroded, endangering both the personal property and the personal safety of residents and guests. My district in south Florida encompasses over 75 miles of beautiful coastline on the Atlantic, and it has numerous shore protection projects, but many are mired in the Army Corps of Engineers' permitting process.

There are many reasons why the permitting process is not as efficient as it could be, but one problem we can address right here is the understaffing at the Army Corps of Engineers. For example, Palm Beach County, which is one of the counties I represent in south Florida, was forced to pay out of its taxpayer dollars the salary of an additional Army Corps of Engineers staffer to deal with the county's many projects awaiting some Army Corps action. In essence, Palm Beach County became fed up with waiting year after year for the Corps to act on their permit applications, so they are now paying for the extra Army Corps employee to do his job.

Mr. Speaker, this is a ridiculous situation that is unfair to the taxpayers of south Florida, who are paying their fair share here up in Washington. That is why I filed an amendment that was accepted as part of Chairman PASTOR's manager's amendment. This language, combined with increases in the underlying bill, will add \$11.8 million on top of last year's funding level to fund more staff and to support more personnel to help act on a more efficient basis with regard to these permits. This sizable investment will unclog the permitting pipeline that is hurting so many of our coastal communities. They deserve a timely decision so they can determine the best ways to protect their residents and the natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, south Florida and the entire country need greater strategic investment in our Nation's priorities. This particular bill, H.R. 3183, will put us on a path towards energy independence in addition to a number of other bills we've already put on the table and have sent to the President. The only way we can reduce our dependence on foreign oil is to invest in a multitude of technologies and to make these technologies right here in the United States, creating the jobs right here. This bill invests in solar and wind energy in order to make our electricity cleaner. At the same time, it also invests in weatherization and in energy efficiency to bring down costs for consumers and businesses. The bill includes investments in clean coal technology and nuclear energy research so that we can unleash these innovations and create high-quality American jobs.

The bill also makes critical investments in vehicle technology so that our gas tanks get more miles per gallon, which will save us money at the pump. Of course, using less gasoline means we will import less gasoline, and that is an essential national security item because, currently, we are importing 60 percent of our oil from unstable countries around the world that, in many cases, are financing terrorism and drug trafficking with our petrodollars. I believe that a transition to new energy sources will ensure that we do not continue to send billions of dollars to countries that are, at best, not our friends and, at worst, are our enemies. My strongest belief is that we should never again have to make a foreign policy decision based on where the next drop of oil is coming from.

Lastly, H.R. 3183 builds on the recently passed American Clean Energy Security Act and Recovery Act, which has jump-started American investment in this new energy economy I've been talking about. I truly believe this is an historic moment and an extraordinary opportunity to create jobs in south Florida and throughout the Nation and to unleash a new generation of energy technology built right here in America.

I am proud to support H.R. 3183, and I am looking forward to seeing the results on the ground in south Florida.

H.R. 3036: BRINGING SUNSHINE TO COSTS OF CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL OVERSEAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, many Members of the House may have seen a recent Wall Street Journal article that documented how existing disclosure requirements allow many of the costs associated with congressional delegation trips overseas, known as CODELS, to go unreported.

Right now, when Members of Congress take foreign trips using commercial airlines, the costs are publicly dis-

closed in reports published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. However, the costs of Members' foreign trips using military aircraft are not. In the past, Members of Congress have used military aircraft even when traveling to exotic locations that are readily served by commercial airlines. Press reports have indicated that the military even maintains a specially outfitted VIP fleet, operated out of Andrews Air Force Base, where aircraft can carry costs estimated at \$10,000 per hour.

When a Member of Congress takes a taxpayer-funded trip overseas, taxpayers have a right to know how much of their hard-earned money is being spent on that travel. For this reason, I recently introduced H.R. 3036.

This legislation would direct the Department of Defense to provide a report on the costs incurred in taking a Member of Congress, an officer or an employee of Congress on a trip outside the United States. It would then require the Member of Congress to disclose those costs, and these costs would be publicly reported online.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that this bill would not apply to any trip for which the sole purpose would be to visit one or more U.S. military installations or to visit U.S. military personnel in a war zone, since there may be varied security reasons for not disclosing the costs of these trips.

With an ever-growing national debt and with our military budget stretched thin, it is more important than ever that Congress acts as a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars. Bringing sunshine to the costs of Members' foreign travel will help ensure taxpayer dollars are efficiently used.

I am pleased that this legislation has received the support of the National Taxpayers Union, of Eagle Forum and of Public Citizens Congress Watch. It has also been endorsed by the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste. Their letter of support for this bill states:

"Military aircraft is necessary when flying into war zones or U.S. military installations overseas; however, the military fleet is too often used to shuttle Members back and forth to locations served by commercial airliners. Members of Congress should be held accountable for every bill footed by taxpayers."

Again, that statement that I just read is from a letter that the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste wrote to support this legislation. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I submit the text of this letter for the RECORD.

In closing, I hope my colleagues will become cosponsors of H.R. 3036, and will join in bringing transparency to the cost of foreign travel by Members of Congress.

COUNCIL FOR CITIZENS AGAINST
GOVERNMENT WASTE,
Washington, DC., June 29, 2009.
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Congressman Walter Jones (R-N.C.) recently introduced H.R.